

EXHIBIT A

TO
AMENDMENT
(Serial No. 10/510,561)

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Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (new): A masking member [1A, 1B] attached to a part [2A, 2B] of an article having at least one open hole [22A, 22B] penetrating said part from a first to a second side of the part, wherein:

said masking member is formed of thermoplastic resin sheet or film and comprises:

(a) at least one fitting part [11A, 12B] that fits into said at least one open hole and has a first side and a second side,

(b) a collar [12A, 11B] at the first side of said fitting part, at least a part of said collar being at the first side of said part, outside of said at least one hole, and having a greater circumference than the hole at said first side of the part, and

(c) a flange [13A, 13B] at the second side of said fitting part, at least a part of the flange being at the second side of said part, outside of said at least one hole, and also having a circumference greater than the hole at said second side of the part;

wherein said collar and said flange protect said at least one open hole from contamination by material used to apply surface treatment to said part; and

at least one of said collar and said flange is sufficiently elastic and resilient to deform for insertion of the masking member into said at least one open hole such that at least a part of each of the collar and the flange is outside of the hole and extends beyond the circumference of the hole.

Claim 3 (new): A masking member as in claim 2 attached to a part [2A] having a single open hole, wherein said masking member has a single fitting part, single collar, and a single flange.

Claim 4 (new): A masking member as in claim 2 in which said fitting member, collar and flange are generally circular.

Claim 5 (new): A masking member as in claim 1 attached to a part [2B] having multiple open holes, wherein said masking member [1B] comprises multiple fitting parts [12B] fitting into

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respective ones of said open holes, and multiple flanges [13B] each having at least a portion that surrounds a respective one of said open holes at the second side of the part.

Claim 6 (new): A masking member as in claim 5 in which said collar comprises a single body [11B] having at least a portion that surrounds all of said multiple holes at the first side of the part to protect them from contamination by material used to apply surface treatment to said part.

Claim 7 (new): A masking member as in claim 1 in which the masking member is integrally formed of said thermoplastic resin sheet or film.

Claim 8 (new): A masking member as in claim 7 in which said masking member is formed by vacuum and/or pressure forming.

Claim 9 (new): A masking member as in claim 1 in which said masking member is sufficiently elastic and resilient for insertion into and withdrawal from said at least one hole for multiple uses of said masking member.

Claim 10 (new): A masking member as in claim 9 in which said at least one fitting part has a cross-section smaller than that of said at least one hole.